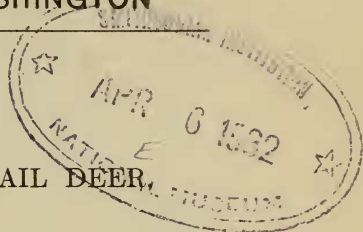


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE NORTHWESTERN WHITE-TAIL DEER.

BY VERNON BAILEY.



In working out the characters of the white-tail deer in Oregon I find a striking difference between the specimens from the Willamette Valley, west of the Cascades, and those of the Blue Mountain country, where a few still remain. Until specimens were secured a few years ago by Stanley G. Jewett from near Roseburg, Oregon, there was no material available that could be considered typical *leucurus*, described by David Douglas in 1829 from the Willamette River Valley. With these skins and skulls for comparison it becomes evident that the white-tail deer from eastern Oregon, Idaho, and northwestern Montana are quite different from *leucurus* as they are also from the Plains deer, *Odocoileus virginianus macrourus*. As the publication of my report on Oregon mammals may be somewhat delayed the following description of this subspecies is offered in advance of the full report, where more details of distribution will be given. The subspecies may be characterized as follows:

Odocoileus virginianus ochrourus, subsp. nov.

YELLOW-TAIL DEER.

Type.—From Coolin, south end of Priest Lake, Idaho, ♂ adult, No. 159353, Biological Survey collection, U. S. National Museum, collected December 27, 1908, by Frank Lemmer. Miscellaneous catalogue number 7483. A large buck 5 or 6 years old, skull with antlers, and skin in full winter coat.

General characters.—Size about as in *macrourus* of the Great Plains region; colors darker with less black on top of tail; much larger than typical *leucurus* with heavier skull, larger horns, and longer tail, but very similar in coloration. Not so large or dark as *borealis* of the Northeast.

Color.—In winter pelage, upper parts dark buffy gray, becoming bright ochraceous on top of tail, on legs and edges of belly; forehead and top of

head dark brown; brisket dusky; eyelids, nose pad, three spots on top and sides of nose and two on sides of lower lip black; sides of nose and eye-ring light gray; tip and lower surface of tail, belly, throat patch, and lower lip, inside of ears, inside of legs to below heels and knees, metatarsal and foot glands, white. *Summer coat* (June 25 from Coeur d'Alene Mountains): Upperparts bright tawny or light bay; legs but little lighter, not yellowish as in *macrourus*; no real black on top of tail as in *macrourus* and *borealis*. *Young* light fawn color thickly spotted with white over back and sides.

Skull.—Similar to that of *macrourus* with about the same type of horns, larger, more massive and much heavier than in *leucurus*.

Measurements.—Of type: Total length, 1,752; tail, 265; hind foot, 483; ear, notch to tip, 120; base to tip, 150 millimeters. *Skull* of type: Basal length approximately 275; nasals, 100; orbital width, 120; postorbital width, 105; braincase, 75; mastoid width, 91; alveolar length of upper molar series, 74; of lower molar series, 84 millimeters.